

Appln. No. 10/782,066
Amendment dated November 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed August 5, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A mail retrieval system for allowing a user to retrieve mail from a curb side location, the mail retrieval system comprising:

a support assembly being adapted for being positioned on a support surface ~~such that said support assembly extends between a curb and a house~~, said support assembly having a first end and a second end;

a mail receiving member being coupled to said support assembly such that said mail receiving member is selectively transported along said support assembly, ~~said mail receiving member being adapted for receiving mail when said mail receiving member is positioned adjacent the curb, said mail receiving member permitting a user to retrieve the mail when said mail receiving member is transported along said support assembly to be positioned proximate the house;~~ and

a drive ~~being~~ assembly coupled to said support assembly, said drive assembly being operationally coupled to said mail receiving assembly ~~such that said drive assembly is~~ for transporting said mail receiving member along said support assembly when said drive assembly is actuated by the user;

wherein said support assembly comprises a rail member extending between said first end and said second end and a carriage member slidably mounted on said rail member for movement between said first end and said second end, said mail receiving member being mounted on said carriage member, said carriage member straddling said rail member;

wherein said drive member includes a cable extending between said first end and said carriage member, and a chain extending between said carriage member and said second end, free ends of said cable being mounted

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on said carriage member and free ends of said carriage member being mounted on said carriage member.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim [[[2]]] 1, further comprising:

said support assembly comprising a plurality of stanchion members, each of said stanchion members being coupled to said rail member, each of said stanchion members being adapted for engaging the support surface such that said stanchion members are for supporting said rail member above the support surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim [[[2]]] 1, further comprising:

said drive assembly comprising a motor member, said motor member being operationally coupled to said carriage member of said support assembly such that said motor member is for sliding said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said motor assembly being reversed each time said motor assembly is actuated such that said motor assembly slides said carriage member away from said motor member upon actuation of said drive assembly and slides said carriage member towards said motor member upon alternating actuations of said drive assembly, said motor assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a power source for supplying power to said motor member.

5. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

said drive assembly comprising a drive member, said drive member being operationally coupled between said motor member and said carriage member, said drive assembly being actuated by said motor assembly to slide

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said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 5, further~~ for allowing a user to retrieve mail from a curb side location, the mail retrieval system comprising:

a support assembly being adapted for being positioned on a support surface such that said support assembly extends between a curb and a house;

a mail receiving member being coupled to said support assembly such that said mail receiving member is selectively transported along said support assembly, said mail receiving member being adapted for receiving mail when said mail receiving member is positioned adjacent the curb, said mail receiving member permitting a user to retrieve the mail when said mail receiving member is transported along said support assembly to be positioned proximate the house;

a drive assembly coupled to said support assembly, said drive assembly being operationally coupled to said mail receiving assembly such that said drive assembly is for transporting said mail receiving member along said support assembly when said drive assembly is actuated by the user;

said support assembly comprising a rail member and a carriage member, said carriage member being slidably coupled to said rail member such that said carriage member selectively slides along a length of said rail member, said carriage member being operationally coupled to said drive assembly such that said drive assembly is for sliding said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said mail receiving member being coupled to said carriage member such that said mail receiving member is transported along said rail member when said carriage member is slid along said rail member by said drive assembly;

said drive assembly comprising a motor member, said motor member being operationally coupled to said carriage member of said support

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assembly such that said motor member is for sliding said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said motor assembly being reversed each time said motor assembly is actuated such that said motor assembly slides said carriage member away from said motor member upon actuation of said drive assembly and slides said carriage member towards said motor member upon alternating actuations of said drive assembly, said motor assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a power source for supplying power to said motor member:

said drive assembly comprising a drive member, said drive member being operationally coupled between said motor member and said carriage member, said drive assembly being actuated by said motor assembly to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user:

said drive member comprising a chain portion and a cable portion, said chain portion being coupled to said cable portion, a free end of said chain portion being coupled to said carriage member, a distal end of said cable portion being coupled to said carriage member opposite said free end of said chain portion, said chain portion of said drive member being operationally coupled to said motor member such that said free end of said chain portion is selectively drawn closer to said motor assembly to slide said carriage member along said rail member towards said motor member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said cable member being operationally coupled to said support assembly such said chain portion pulls on said cable portion to draw said distal end of said cable portion away from said motor member to slide said cable assembly along said rail member away from said motor member upon alternating actuations of said drive assembly.

7. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

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said drive assembly comprising a pulley member, said pulley member being rotationally coupled to said support assembly, said cable portion of said drive member extending around said pulley member such that said pulley member rotates to provide a smooth operation of said drive member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user.

8. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

said drive assembly comprising a sprocket member, said sprocket member being coupled to said motor member such that said sprocket member is selectively rotated by said motor member, said sprocket member engaging said chain portion of said drive member such that said sprocket member actuates said chain portion of said drive member to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user.

9. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

said drive assembly comprising a housing member, said housing member being positioned around said motor member, said housing member being adapted for inhibiting moisture from contacting said motor member to inhibit said motor member being damaged by the moisture.

10. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

said drive assembly comprising a transmitter assembly and a receiver assembly, said receiver assembly being operationally coupled to said motor member, said transmitter assembly being positioned remotely from said receiver assembly, said transmitter assembly transmitting an activation signal over free space to said receiver assembly to actuate said motor member to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said transmitter assembly is actuated by the user.

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11. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

said mail receiving member comprising a perimeter wall, said perimeter wall defining an interior space of said mail receiving member, said interior space comprising an open end such that said open end is adapted for permitting mail to being inserted into and retrieved from said interior space of said mail receiving member.

12. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:

a cover member being pivotally coupled to said mail receiving member, said cover member being selectively pivoted over said open end of said interior space of said mail receiving member to selectively close said open end to inhibit precipitation from entering said interior space of said mail receiving member.

13. (Original) The mail retrieval system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a signal member being rotatably coupled said mail receiving member, said signal member being selectively rotated to a first position to indicate to a mail carrier that mail is present in said mail receiving member to be picked up by the mail carrier, said signal member being selectively rotated to a second position to indicate to a mail carrier that there is no mail in said interior space of said mail receiving member.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The mail retrieval system of claim 1 comprising:

said support assembly comprising a plurality of stanchion members, each of said stanchion members being coupled to said rail member, each of said stanchion members being adapted for engaging the support surface such

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that said stanchion members are for supporting said rail member above the support surface;

said drive assembly comprising a motor member, said motor member being operationally coupled to said carriage member of said support assembly such that said motor member is for sliding said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said motor assembly being reversed each time said motor assembly is actuated such that said motor assembly slides said carriage member away from said motor member upon actuation of said drive assembly and slides said carriage member towards said motor member upon alternating actuations of said drive assembly, said motor assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a power source for supplying power to said motor member;

said drive assembly comprising a drive member, said drive member being operationally coupled between said motor member and said carriage member, said drive assembly being actuated by said motor assembly to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user;

said drive assembly comprising a pulley member, said pulley member being rotationally coupled to said support assembly, said cable portion of said drive member extending around said pulley member such that said pulley member rotates to provide a smooth operation of said drive member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user;

said drive assembly comprising a sprocket member, said sprocket member being coupled to said motor member such that said sprocket member is selectively rotated by said motor member, said sprocket member engaging said chain portion of said drive member such that said sprocket member actuates said chain portion of said drive member to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user;

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said drive assembly comprising a housing member, said housing member being positioned around said motor member, said housing member being adapted for inhibiting moisture from contacting said motor member to inhibit said motor member being damaged by the moisture;

said drive assembly comprising a transmitter assembly and a receiver assembly, said receiver assembly being operationally coupled to said motor member, said transmitter assembly being positioned remotely from said receiver assembly, said transmitter assembly transmitting an activation signal over free space to said receiver assembly to actuate said motor member to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said transmitter assembly is actuated by the user;

said mail receiving member comprising a perimeter wall, said perimeter wall defining an interior space of said mail receiving member, said interior space comprising an open end such that said open end is adapted for permitting mail to being inserted into and retrieved from said interior space of said mail receiving member;

a cover member being pivotally coupled to said mail receiving member, said cover member being selectively pivoted over said open end of said interior space of said mail receiving member to selectively close said open end to inhibit precipitation from entering said interior space of said mail receiving member; and

a signal member being rotatably coupled said mail receiving member, said signal member being selectively rotated to a first position to indicate to a mail carrier that mail is present in said mail receiving member to be picked up by the mail carrier, said signal member being selectively rotated to a second position to indicate to a mail carrier that there is no mail in said interior space of said mail receiving member.

16. (New) A mail retrieval system for allowing a user to retrieve mail from a curb side location, the mail retrieval system comprising:

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a support assembly being adapted for being positioned on a support surface such that said support assembly extends between a curb and a house;

a mail receiving member being coupled to said support assembly such that said mail receiving member is selectively transported along said support assembly, said mail receiving member being adapted for receiving mail when said mail receiving member is positioned adjacent the curb, said mail receiving member permitting a user to retrieve the mail when said mail receiving member is transported along said support assembly to be positioned proximate the house;

a drive being assembly coupled to said support assembly, said drive assembly being operationally coupled to said mail receiving assembly such that said drive assembly is for transporting said mail receiving member along said support assembly when said drive assembly is actuated by the user;

said support assembly comprising a rail member and a carriage member, said carriage member being slidably coupled to said rail member such that said carriage member selectively slides along a length of said rail member, said carriage member being operationally coupled to said drive assembly such that said drive assembly is for sliding said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said mail receiving member being coupled to said carriage member such that said mail receiving member is transported along said rail member when said carriage member is slid along said rail member by said drive assembly;

said drive assembly comprising a motor member, said motor member being operationally coupled to said carriage member of said support assembly such that said motor member is for sliding said carriage member along said rail member when said drive assembly is actuated by the user, said motor assembly being reversed each time said motor assembly is actuated such that said motor assembly slides said carriage member away from said motor member upon actuation of said drive assembly and slides said carriage member towards said motor member upon alternating

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actuators of said drive assembly, said motor assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a power source for supplying power to said motor member;

said drive assembly comprising a transmitter assembly and a receiver assembly, said receiver assembly being operationally coupled to said motor member, said transmitter assembly being positioned remotely from said receiver assembly, said transmitter assembly transmitting an activation signal over free space to said receiver assembly to actuate said motor member to slide said carriage member along said rail member when said transmitter assembly is actuated by the user.